

Dr. C. B. TICEHURST forwarded the following descriptions of new races of Iraq and Indian birds :—

(1) *Sitta neumayer kurdistanica*, subsp. nov.

Largest, with *S. n. dresseri*, of all races of Rock-Nuthatch. Resembles *S. n. dresseri*, but a darker blue-grey on the upper parts and the flanks darker rust-colour.

♂. Wing 91–98, exposed culmen 24–26.5; ♀. Wing 90, bill 25 mm. Four males and one female examined; fifteen *S. n. dresseri* examined.

*Type*. In the British Museum. ♂ Tang-i-Dorq, 2000 ft., Kurdistan, 19. x. 22. No. 1721. Cox-Cheesman coll.

*Distribution*. Replaces *S. n. dresseri* in Kurdistan; all specimens come from Dohuk district.

(2) *Podiceps ruficollis iraquensis*, subsp. nov.

Like *P. r. ruficollis*, but smaller. In breeding-dress darker on neck and belly than either *P. r. ruficollis* or *P. r. capensis* on the average. The white on the wings is more extensive than in *P. r. ruficollis*, but less than in *P. r. capensis*; the white often extends on to the bases of the inner primaries, and there is more on the secondaries than in *P. r. ruficollis*.

♂. Wing 91–97; ♀ 83–89 mm.

*Type*. In the British Museum. Iskandariyeh, Euphrates, 23. vi. 1922. No. 2151. Cox-Cheesman coll.

*Distribution*. Resident in the marshes of Iraq and ? Palestine.

*Observations*. On size alone this could neither be *P. r. ruficollis* nor *P. r. capensis*. When I wrote the 'Birds of Mesopotamia' I had to place the Little Grebe under *P. r. capensis*, owing to lack of material.

(3) *Horeites brunnifrons whistleri*, subsp. nov.

Resembles *H. b. brunnifrons* from Nepal and Sikkim, but is paler chestnut on the head; paler, not so rufous, on back and edge of wing, paler under tail-coverts and thighs.

*Type*. In the British Museum. ♂. Simla, 24. xi. 1880. W. Davison coll. Reg. No. 86.7.8.2196.

*Distribution*. N.W. Himalayas.

(4) *Phylloscopus pulcher kangræ*, subsp. nov.

Like *Ph. p. pulcher*, but more yellowish-olive, not so dark olive, on back and edge of wing; head not so dark.

*Type*. In the British Museum. Simla, 29. x. 1880. W. Davison coll. Reg. No. 86.7.8.1289.

*Distribution*. N.W. Himalayas.

*Observations*. Differs from *P. p. pulcher* in much the same way as *Ph. proregulus simlaensis* does from *P. p. newtoni*.

Mr. P. F. BUNYARD exhibited a clutch of twelve, three clutches of eleven, and five clutches of nine eggs of the Carolina Crake (*Porzana carolina*) from Buffalo Lake, Alberta, Genesee, Co. Mich., Games N. York, Harrison, Dakota, etc.

The claim of the Carolina Crake to be ranked as a British bird rests on four records ("A List of British Birds," B. O. U., Second edition, p. 302).

Though a comparatively common egg, very few appear to have reached this country. There are three only in the Nat. Hist. Mus. Cat. of Birds' Eggs, vol. i. p. 117, plate ix. fig. 2; unfortunately, these are wrongly described as resembling the eggs of *P. porzana*. This is, as far as I am aware, the only egg of *P. carolina* figured in British works. If comparison is made, it will be seen that there is no resemblance between the eggs of the two species.

A series of Spotted Crake (*P. porzana*) were also exhibited for comparison.

Oologically closely allied (except in size) to eggs of the Moorhen (*G. chloropus*), eggs of *P. carolina*, however, are not so reddish in the ground-colour.

*Measurements*. 1.24 × .90 in., a clutch eight to fifteen (Chapman, 'Handbook of Birds of Eastern N. A.,' p. 143).

Dr. T. G. LONGSTAFF exhibited some specimens obtained by the Merton College Expedition in Spitsbergen, 1923:—

Spitsbergen Ptarmigan. Two adult males (8. viii. 23).

Sanderling ♀, clutch of 4 eggs and nest-material (28. vii. 23).

Sabine's Gull, juvenile (26. viii. 23).